

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 1026P100WO - VH/bj	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/EP2002/006680	International filing date (day/month/year) 18 June 2002 (18.06.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year) 05 July 2001 (05.07.2001)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A61C 8/00, 7/00, 7/28		
Applicant ALTATEC MEDIZINTECHNISCHE ELEMENTE GMBH & CO. KG		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>3</u> sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 06 December 2002 (06.12.2002)	Date of completion of this report 04 November 2003 (04.11.2003)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/EP2002/006680

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☐ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-17, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages 1-11, filed with the letter of 15 September 2003 (15.09.2003)
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1/3-3/3, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages _____, as originally filed
 pages _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/EP 02/06680

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

1. Reference is made to the following document:

D1: WO-A-02/03880 (LEE Jong-Suck; PARK Young-Chel (KR)) 17 January 2002 and
priority document KR-Y-207 524 (LEE Jong-Suck; PARK Young-Chel (KR)) 15 December 2000.

2. D1 discloses (see page 4, line 4 to page 5, line 7, figures):

an orthodontic implant system for the mobilisation of teeth, said implant system comprising an implant (30) with a shank (31) that can be implanted into a jawbone and a head (33) that adjoins the shank, said head being provided with securing means (33a) for fixing at least one elongate tensioning or retaining element (41) on the head, wherein the retaining means have at least one elongate recess (33a) that is formed on the head and extends substantially transversely or obliquely relative to a longitudinal axis of said shank, said recess (33a) being open at least one longitudinal end to receive a section of at least one tensioning or retaining element.

/...

The subject matter of Claim 1 differs from the implant system of D1 by virtue of a curing or curable adhesive mass for fixing at least one tensioning or retaining element in at least one recess and by virtue of the fact that the depth of the slot is sufficient for at least two tensioning or retaining elements to be received within the slot, one on top of the other.

The problem addressed by the present invention can be regarded as that of designing an improved implant system that requires fewer implants. The solution according to Claim 1 has the technical effect that more than one tensioning or retaining element can be received and secured in one implant, and, thus, more than two teeth can be secured with only one implant, thereby reducing the number of implants required.

In so far as Claim 1 is clear (see point 4. below), this solution to the problem is not obvious for a person skilled in the art, nor is it disclosed in or derivable from the prior art.

3. Claims 2-11 are dependent on Claim 1 and thus likewise satisfy the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and inventive step.
4. Claim 1 fails to satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 6 in so far as the subject matter for which protection is sought is not clear since Claim 1 refers to a slot that is first defined in Claim 2.